Melissa Weipert

From:

Tom D <hlcomp@charter.net>

Sent:

Tuesday, September 5, 2017 1:56 PM

To:

Melissa Weipert

Subject:

e-bikes

HB'S 4781, 4782, 4783

Hello Committee Members,

oppose

I am an LMB member, a very avid handicap advocate and a competitive quadriplegic handcyclist. I ride thousands of miles throughout several states that I visit each year. I think the note that I wrote to John at the LMB, (see copy below), pretty much says it all as far as my opinion of the e-Bike controversy goes. I personally witnessed lots of controversy with e-Bikes on several Florida trails this past winter and recently witnessed some issues over in Wisconsin too.

My feelings are that e-Bikes will do to our quality cycling trails what ATV's have done to our roadways, what PWC's have done to our lakes and what snow boarders did to our ski areas when they were new. Other than exceptions for necessary and qualified disabled users, e-Bikes have no business on our NON-MOTORIZED asphalt trails. A handful of demonstrations and the support from a small group of cyclists who even know what they are or have seen them in action on busy trails does not justify legislation that will ultimately allow them to cause major problems for many trails users. My opinion is that the vast, vast majority of fellow cyclists and other trails users such as skateboarders, roller bladders, roller skiers, runners, joggers, dog walkers and so many other users are very much against having e-Bikers blow by them at relatively high and unsafe speeds.

Before any legislation is even introduced and possibly voted on, you need to do a whole lot more research. The majority of real trail users is dead set against e-Bikes today!

Respectfully submitted,

Tom D'Ambrosio Houghton Lake, Michigan Avid handcyclist and handicap advocate

Hi John,

My question is, how can the LMB be in support of e-Bike legislation when it appears so many cyclists are against allowing motorized bikes of any kind on quality asphalt cycling trails? I have personally spoken to many fellow cyclists about this issue and I have only met one person in favor of legislation allowing these bikes on our good trails. If you look at and read the comments on recent articles published about the subject, the responders are overwhelmingly in favor of keeping e-bikes off the trails, albeit with a few exceptions for persons with certain qualifying disabilities.

I have yet to see any real polls or surveys done by the LMB, the DNR or anyone else for that matter, that support the new bills subject either. Before the organization supports the idea, isn't there some kind of majority needed or at least some kind of positive questionnaire responses that favor or show strong support first. I'm all in favor of getting more people on bikes and getting more bikes on our trails, but e-bikes do not belong on non-motorized asphalt trails. They are in fact already causing lots of problems in lots of states other than Michigan.

Please send me your thoughts on this ASAP as I honor your opinion too!

Regards,

Tom D'Ambrosio